

Egils Milbergs

Biography

Egils Milbergs is the Executive Director of the newly formed Economic Development Commission of Washington State. His appointment was announced by Governor Chris Gregoire on January 23, 2008 after a nation-wide search. He is a noted thought leader and strategist in global innovation, advanced manufacturing, competitiveness and public-private partnerships.

Mr. Milbergs is founder and president of the Center for Accelerating Innovation, a leading innovation research and strategy organization based in the Washington DC area. The Center conducts research on the changing nature of the innovation process and consults with start-ups, corporations, associations and governments on growth acceleration strategies. Milbergs played a principal role in the National Innovation Initiative (NII) and the Innovation Vital Signs project of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

From 1998-2003, he served as president of the National Coalition for Advanced Manufacturing, an industry-led organization aimed at improving the competitiveness of U.S. manufacturing. He established the Advanced Manufacturing Leadership Council, which organized a powerful policy consensus on R&D, human capital, and supply chain issues focused on strengthening the “extended production enterprise.” In 1994, he founded Learning Access to pioneer Internet applications in the K-12 education sector, including a unique multi-million dollar partnership of Internet-based after-school centers called the Chicago Neighborhood Learning Network.

From 1986-1993, Milbergs served as president of the non-partisan Institute for Illinois, a partnership of the Illinois Congressional Delegation, business and research community. A major accomplishment was implementing a \$2 billion federal R&D project portfolio for improving the state’s research and technology infrastructure. He served as an advisor to the president of Virginia’s Center for Innovative Technology (CIT), and gained legislative approval and budget for its first strategic technology plan and space commercialization initiative.

From 1980-1986, Milbergs served as deputy assistant secretary for productivity, technology and innovation at the U.S. Commerce Department under Malcolm Baldrige in the Reagan Administration. He was responsible for implementing the Bayh-Dole Act, Stevenson-Wydler Act, Federal Technology Transfer Act, productivity policy, US metric system and cooperative R&D initiatives. He played a seminal role in establishing the Baldrige National Quality Award. He also served as executive director of the President’s Commission on Industrial Competitiveness (Young Commission) which produced the landmark report: Global Competition—The New Reality.

Milbergs began his career as a program manager at SRI International and as a staff member of the Office of Management and Budget and President’s Council on Executive Organization.

Milbergs is a graduate of Harvard College, where he concentrated in public policy and economics. He lectures frequently on the subject of technology policy, innovation, entrepreneurship and global competitiveness issues.